

# Department of Natural Resources Press Releases

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**Contact:** Marty Benson

**Phone:** (317) 233-3853, cell (317) 696-9812

**Email:** [dnrnews@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dnrnews@dnr.in.gov)

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## **Flood hazard maps for Hancock County released**

### ***Public meeting set for Oct. 25***

Preliminary flood hazard maps for Hancock County have been released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to the DNR and county officials.

When final, the maps will show flood risk throughout the county and determine whether property owners are required to carry flood insurance.

The first new such documents for the county in 24 years came as the result of the three groups' extensive multi-year study of the areas's floodplains using state-of-the-art technologies and risk-modeling techniques.

These flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) identify property as having high, moderate or low flood risk. In addition to affecting property owners, FIRMs allow community planners, engineers, permit officials, builders, and others to determine if, where and how new structures and developments should be built.

The preliminary maps may be viewed at:

[http://www.IN.gov/dnr/water/surface\\_water/hydro\\_hydraulic/flood\\_maps/Hancock/](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/water/surface_water/hydro_hydraulic/flood_maps/Hancock/)

Those interested in learning more about how they may be affected and providing feedback may attend a public meeting, Oct. 25, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the county fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St. in Greenfield, in the exhibits hall.

A 90-day public comment period will start at a date to be announced after the public meeting. During that period, property owners can submit appeals and protests. Once the feedback is received and addressed, the maps are expected to be adopted in summer 2007, when the new insurance requirements will take effect.

The Hancock County project is part of FEMA's larger effort to modernize the nation's aging flood maps to reflect the most current flood risks and areas of recent growth.